

*Department of
Ecology's*

CRT NEWS

January

2003 Issue No. 2



EXPORTING HARM VIDEO

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program now has two loaner copies of the video "[Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia](#)", a film by the [Basel Action Network](#) (23 min). This groundbreaking investigation documents the huge quantities of hazardous electronic waste that are being exported to China under the guise of recycling. The investigative team witnessed many tons of the E-waste simply being dumped along rivers, in open fields and irrigation canals in the rice growing area. Please consider showing this video at staff meetings or any other opportunity you get.



For more information about the Basel Action Network, visit their web at <http://www.ban.org>

Contact: Patricia Jatczak, HQ– HWTR, (360) 407-6358

pjat461@ecy.wa.gov

CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE HOSTS E-WASTE SESSION

On January 23, 2003, CRO hosts a workshop with the Northwest Product Stewardship Council on electronic waste and product stewardship issues for local governments on the eastside. It will provide an opportunity for

local government representatives to weigh in on the emerging agreements being formulated at the national level, to discuss e-waste issues on the eastside, and to discuss some ways of handling e-waste such as collection events and network building.

Contact: Sage Park, CRO – SWFAP (509) 454-7863
sueb461@ecy.wa.gov

COMPUTER TAKE-IT-BACK CAMPAIGN

[Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition](#) (SVTC) is engaged in research, advocacy, and organizing associated with environmental and human health problems caused by the high-tech electronics industry. SVTC's goal in addressing these problems is to advance environmental sustainability and clean production in the industry and to improve health, promote justice, and ensure democratic decision-making.

SVTC's [Clean Computer Campaign](#) was launched in 1997 to clean-up the life-cycle of computer manufacturing and promote environmentally sustainable development, extended producer responsibility, and corporate and government accountability.

Take a look at their [Report Card 2002](#) to see how your favorite PC maker rates. The Report Card analyzes the information on the websites of computer companies to compare the environmental qualities of electronic equipment and the environmental performance of companies. It is also intended to encourage brand-name firms to place information concerning various attributes of corporate "clean and green" responsibility on their websites, thereby allowing consumers to make more informed decisions.

Information: Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition: <http://www.svtc.org/>

SNOHOMISH COUNTY TAKE-IT-BACK NETWORK

Computers, computer monitors, televisions, and other electronics that contain CRTs, and separated computer circuit boards contain hazardous materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury. **They are no longer accepted for landfill disposal at Snohomish County facilities.** "Take it Back Network" currently provides several recycling options for products. Due to costs in the collection, transport, disassembly, and processing, a fee will be charged. Here's what you do:

- Contact a recycler based in [Snohomish County](#) or [King County](#). Call ahead to ask for prices and to check on any restrictions on materials collected.
- Check with manufacturers for reuse and recycling programs.
- Safely store electronics until more convenient services are available that meet your needs.

<http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/publicwk/solidwaste/programs/takeitback/>

MICROSOFT AUTHORIZED REFURBISH PROGRAM

The computer reuse effort took a giant leap recently when Microsoft removed what had been a nearly insurmountable obstacle. The new Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher program, administered by CompuMentor, allows nonprofit refurbishers that meet certain minimal standards to buy Windows 98 and Windows 2000 licenses for \$5 each in lots of 100.

Source: John Crooks, The Virtual Scavengers Project, Inc.

vscav@indyweb.net

Microsoft Authorized Refurbish Program

http://www.compumentor.org/mar/default.html?cg=mar&sg=cg_home

MATSUSHITA DEVELOPS ADVANCED PLASTIC RECYCLING SYSTEM

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. (Panasonic and other brands) developed a plastic recycling system capable of separating flame retardants from used plastic while maintaining its original physical properties. The system has the potential to accelerate the recycling of end-of-life consumer electronics. The company plans to release a commercial version of the system during fiscal before spring of 2004.

Flame retardants are additives widely used in consumer electronics products to ensure safety. Some brominated compounds used as flame retardants are said to generate brominated dioxins when incinerated at low temperature. For this reason, plastics containing such compounds are currently discarded.

Plastics in TV sets are incinerated at temperatures high enough not to generate brominated dioxins or sent to landfills for disposal, while glass and metal (which exceed 60 percent of the total weight) are recycled. Thus, recycling of plastics containing flame retardants is a key step in increasing the recycling ratio.

Copyright 2002, GreenBiz.com

JAPANESE ECO-DESIGN MAY HELP BUSINESSES MEET NEW EU STANDARDS

Japanese companies are making strides in eco-design, recycling, and lead-free soldering technologies. Japan aims to create a 'closed loop' consumer society, where products and materials are endlessly recycled. Sony plans to double its sales by 2010 without increasing its environmental impact.

Under the new laws, at least half of all home appliances must be recycled, with higher targets being phased in. According to the CFSD's report, "The 'State of the Art' in Eco-Design in the Japanese Electronics

Sector,” the Japanese have exceeded their first year targets of recycling 50%-60% of televisions, air conditioners, fridges, and washing machines by up to 78%.

Businesses are re-designing products, making them smaller and easier to dismantle with reusable or recyclable parts, says the CFSD. At the waste end, discarded products are being assessed for their ability to be dismantled and recycled. New materials are also being launched, such as a hybrid made from plastic and wood, while recycled materials are finding new uses, such as recycled plastic in fishing floats. Even compact discs are being recovered, where the metallic coating is burnt off to enable re-recording, says Grinyer.

“We saw tough goals being set by the companies we visited,” says Professor Martin Charter of the CFSD. But eco-design, even in Japan, is not yet up to scratch, because designers are still too focused on ‘end-of-pipe’ rather than the creation stage, says Charter. Nevertheless, lessons can be learnt from the advances made by the Japanese, whose products will be compatible with legislation like the EU’s Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Restriction of Hazardous Substances directives.

CAMPAIGN TO RETURN AOL DISCS TO SENDER

Two Californians started a campaign to return 1 million AOL CDs to the company to inform them of the damage the discs do to the environment when discarded. **CDs Collected So far: 82,204**

No More AOL CD's

<http://www.nomoreaolcds.com/>

DONATE YOUR USED COMPUTER

[Wilderness Technology Alliance](#) has a refurbishing program that accepts privately owned computer equipment: IBM compatible and Macintosh personal computers and compatible networking equipment monitors, inkjet/laser printers, network cards, modems, printers, scanners, Ethernet hubs/wiring, and other working parts.

Minimum: **PC PLATFORM:** Pentium 166MHz, SVGA Color Monitor and

APPLE PLATFORM: PowerPC, Monitor

Systems and monitors must be functional to the donor's knowledge.

Information: <http://www.wildtech.org/donate.htm>

Computers-4-Kids now runs out of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) <http://www.k12.wa.us/edtech/surplus.asp>

OSPI updates the Minimum Standards annually:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/edtech/standards.asp>

Other Options for Donation

To find a list of groups that recycle electronics or are looking for donations, check the E.P.A.'s Web site, www.epa.gov, or the site of the National Recycling Coalition at www.nrc-recycle.org. You can search by ZIP code for groups and businesses that accept old equipment.

Homes can be found for cell phones, too. Organizations that help victims of domestic abuse often want them for clients to use in emergencies. Groups like Donate a Phone, at www.donateaphone.org, and Collective Good (www.collectivegood.com) accept and recycle phones, and many cell phone service providers, like AT&T, will take back phones for reuse or recycling. Some computer manufacturers, including Dell Computer and Hewlett-Packard, will also take back computers, at a small fee, for parts recycling or proper disposal.

Source: New York Times, Sunday, 12/22/02: Donating Technology's Castaways, By BARBARA WHITAKER

MONITORS NOT INCLUDED

California Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) confirmed that it is ILLEGAL to discard ANY cathode ray tube (CRT) computer or television monitors in California municipal solid waste landfills.

ABSOLUTELY NO CRTs can legally be disposed of in California municipal solid waste landfills. Each one that is broken or no longer working must be treated as hazardous waste.

For more information visit [the California Integrated Waste Management Board](#). At this site you will find the DTSC informational flyer and the DTSC response letter.

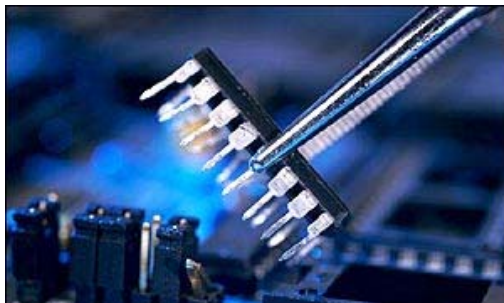
NEW STUDY SHOWS IMPACTS OF CHIP MANUFACTURING

It takes 3.7 pounds of fossil fuels and other chemicals and 70.5 pounds of water to produce a single two-gram microchip, according to a forthcoming study in the Dec. 15 issue of [Environmental Science & Technology](#), a publication of the American Chemical Society.

This new study suggests that not only is chip manufacturing toxic, it's just plain wasteful. And the waste starts not when last year's cast-off model ends up at the dump, but when a chip is born.

FACTOIDS:

It takes 3.7 pounds of fossil fuels and other chemicals and 70.5 pounds of water to produce a single two-gram microchip
High cancer rates reported among clean-room workers
E-waste the waste starts not when the computer does to the



dump, but when a chip is born

69 billion integrated-circuits were produced last year

The six-stage process to produce the wafer consumes 2130 kilowatts per hour of electricity for every kilogram of silicon.

Chip manufacturing is one of the most resource-intensive products ever invented. It's 160 times more energy-intensive to create a silicon wafer out of quartz than to produce regular silicon. As chips get smaller, waste gets higher. The smaller and faster chips get, the harder they are to get right.

Amount of fossil fuel and chemicals to fabricate a car: 3,300 pounds

Amount of fossil fuel and chemicals to fabricate a chip: 3.7 pounds to create a chip.

Resources to create a car to the weight of the vehicle: 2:1

Resources to create a chip to the weight of the chip: 630:1

Information from:

<http://www.salon.com/tech/feature/2002/11/13/microchips/index.html>

NEPSI (NATIONAL ELECTRONICS PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE)

The national dialogue with government and industry on electronics product stewardship continues with a smaller, core group. The group is trying to work out a national system for collection and recycling of computers, TVs, and peripherals, with on-going efforts toward true product stewardship. They will meet at the end of January, and full group meeting is scheduled for February 2003 in Seattle. An Advanced Recycling Fee will raise funds to handle the backlog of obsolete computers. After stockpiles are eliminated, the advance fee would be eliminated and the producer would internalize the cost of disposal.

NEPSI website: <http://eerc.ra.utk.edu/clean/nepsi/>

Contact: Chipper Hervieux, HQ – HWTR, (360) 407-6756

pher461@ecy.wa.gov

ECOLOGY'S INTERIM ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Ecology's "Interim Enforcement Policy for Conditional Exclusion for Cathode Ray Tubes* and Related Electronic Wastes" was published in April 2002. The purpose of this interim enforcement policy is to inform generators, transporters, and operators of facilities that collect, accumulate, and dismantle monitors and other personal computer related equipment that, within its enforcement discretion, Ecology will refrain from

enforcing portions of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* provided the conditions in this policy are met.

To review the policy, go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0204017.html>

Contact: Chipper Hervieux, HQ – HWTR, (360) 407-6756
pher461@ecy.wa.gov

The End

Send comments to Patricia Jatczak, HWTR Program;

pjat461@ecy.gov; 360-407-6358